Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) In a computer, a method for ~~deciding~~ determining whether or not to bid on a bid item Y ~~for which a bid is made~~, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) storing, in a memory device, a logical formula representing a logical OR of ~~two bid items~~ a bid item X and the bid item Y, a value table containing values xm and ym of respective ones of the bid items X and Y, present prices x and y of respective ones of the bid items X and Y, and a total purchasing fund T~~, and a constant p1 determined by a bidding strategy~~;

b) determining, by the computer, whether y < ym (hereafter, called Condition 1) is satisfied;

c) determining, by the computer, whether y < (T + ym - xm)/2 (hereafter, called Condition 2) is satisfied;

d) determining, by the computer, whether y - ym < x - xm (hereafter, called Condition 3) is satisfied;

~~e) determining by the computer whether close of bidding for Y is earlier than that of X (hereafter, called Condition 4);~~

~~f) determining by the computer whether x + y > T (hereafter, called Condition 5) is satisfied;~~

~~g) determining by the computer whether y > p1*x - p1*xm + ym (hereafter, called Condition 6) is satisfied;~~

~~h)~~e) determining, by the computer, ~~that~~ not to bid on the bid item Y ~~should not be purchased in one of cases~~ in a case where the Condition 1 is not satisfied~~, where the Condition 1 is satisfied, the Conditions 2 and 3 are not satisfied, and the Conditions 4 and 6 are satisfied, and where the Condition 1 is satisfied, the Conditions 2-5 are not satisfied, and the Condition 6 is satisfied; and~~

~~i)~~f) determining, by the computer, ~~that~~ to bid on the bid item Y ~~should be purchased~~ in ~~one of~~ cases where (i) the Conditions 1 and 2 are satisfied, or (ii) ~~where~~ the Condition 1 is satisfied, the Condition 2 is not satisfied, and the Condition 3 is satisfied~~, where the Condition 1 is satisfied, the Conditions 2 and 3 are not satisfied, the Condition 4 is satisfied, and the Condition 6 is not satisfied, and where the Condition 1 is satisfied and the Conditions 2-6 are not satisfied~~; and

g) determining, by the computer in accordance with a parameterized decision function, whether or not to bid on the bid item Y in a case where the Condition 1 is satisfied and the Conditions 2 and 3 are not satisfied.

~~wherein the bidding strategy is established taking into consideration a possible rise of the present price of each of the bid items due to participation of a third party to the bidding in the future.~~

29. (Currently Amended) In a computer, a method for ~~deciding~~ determining whether or not to bid on a bid item Y ~~for which a bid is made~~, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) storing, in a memory device, a logical formula representing a logical AND of ~~two bid items~~ a bid item X and the bid item Y, a value table containing values xm and ym of respective ones of the bid items X and Y, present prices x and y of respective ones of the bid items X and Y, a combinatorial value xym obtainable when the bid items X and Y are both purchased, and a total purchasing fund T~~, and a constant p2 determined by a bidding strategy~~;

b) determining, by the computer, whether $y < ym$ (hereafter, called Condition 1) is satisfied;

c) determining, by the computer, whether $y > xym - xm$ (hereafter, called Condition 2) is satisfied;

d) determining, by the computer, whether $x + y > xym$ (hereafter, called Condition 3) is satisfied;

~~e) determining by the computer whether $y > p2*xym - p2*x + ym$ (hereafter, called Condition 4) is satisfied;~~

~~f)~~e) determining, by the computer, ~~that~~ to bid on the bid item Y ~~should be purchased in one of cases~~ in a case where the Condition 1 is satisfied ~~and where the Conditions 1-4 are not satisfied; and~~

~~g)~~f) determining, by the computer, ~~that~~ not to bid on the bid item Y ~~should not be purchased~~ when the Condition 1 is not satisfied and at least one of the Conditions ~~2-4~~ 2 and 3 is satisfied; and

g) determining, by the computer in a case where the Conditions 1 and 2 and 3 are not satisfied, whether or not to bid on the bid item Y based on a result that is calculated in accordance with a parameterized decision equation.

~~wherein the bidding strategy is established taking into consideration a possible rise of the present price of each of the bid items due to participation of a third party to the bidding in the future.~~

30. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) The method of claim 29,

wherein at least one parameter in the parameterized decision equation is set in accordance with a bidding strategy; and

wherein the bidding strategy takes into consideration a possible rise of the price of each of the bid items X and Y due to participation of a third party to the bidding on the bid items X and Y in the future.

34. (New) The method of claim 29,

wherein the parameterized decision equation is p2*xym - p2*x + ym;

wherein p2 is a parameter that is able to be set to a selected constant value; and

wherein the step g), comprises:

determining, by the computer, whether y > p2*xym - p2*x + ym (hereinafter, called Condition 4) is satisfied;

determining, by the computer, to bid on the bid item Y in a case where the Conditions 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 are not satisfied; and

determining, by the computer, not to bid on the bid item Y in a case where the Conditions 1 and 2 and 3 are not satisfied and the Condition 4 is satisfied.

35. (New) The method of claim 34,

wherein the parameter p2 in the parameterized decision equation is set in accordance with a bidding strategy; and

wherein the bidding strategy takes into consideration a possible rise of the price of each of the bid items X and Y due to participation of a third party to the bidding on the bid items X and Y in the future.

36. (New) The method of claim 29,

wherein the parameterized decision equation is [(p2*xym - p2*x + ym)/(1 + p2)];

wherein p2 is a parameter that is able to be set to a selected constant value; and

wherein the step g), comprises:

determining, by the computer, whether y > [(p2*xym - p2*x + ym)/(1 + p2)] (hereinafter, called Condition 4) is satisfied;

determining, by the computer, to bid on the bid item Y in a case where the Conditions 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 are not satisfied; and

determining, by the computer, not to bid on the bid item Y in a case where the Conditions 1 and 2 and 3 are not satisfied and the Condition 4 is satisfied;

37. (New) The method of claim 29,

wherein the bid item Y is a different type of item than the bid item X.

38. (New) The method of claim 28,

wherein at least one parameter used in the parameterized decision function is set in accordance with a bidding strategy; and

wherein the bidding strategy takes into consideration a possible rise of the price of each of the bid items X and Y due to participation of a third party to the bidding on the bid items X and Y in the future.

39. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the parameterized decision function comprises:

determining, by the computer, whether a close of bidding for the bid item Y is earlier than a close of bidding for the bid item X (hereinafter, called Condition 4);

determining, by the computer, whether $x + y > T$ (hereinafter, called Condition 5) is satisfied;

determining, by the computer, whether $y > p1*x - p1*xm + ym$ (hereinafter, called Condition 6) is satisfied, wherein p1 is a parameter that is able to be set to a selected constant value;

determining, by the computer, not to bid on the bid item Y in cases where (i) the Conditions 4 and 6 are satisfied, or (ii) the Conditions 4 and 5 are not satisfied and the Condition 6 is satisfied; and

determining, by the computer, to bid on the bid item Y in cases where (i) the Condition 4 is satisfied and the Condition 6 is not satisfied, or (ii) the Conditions 4 and 5 and 6 are not satisfied.

40. (New) The method of claim 39,

wherein the parameter p1 is set in accordance with a bidding strategy; and

wherein the bidding strategy takes into consideration a possible rise of the price of each of the bid items X and Y due to participation of a third party to the bidding on the bid items X and Y in the future.

41. (New) A method for determining whether or not to bid on a first bid item in a first auction, the method implemented in a computer, the method comprising:

determining whether or not a present price of the first bid item in the first auction is greater than or equal to a first preset value, the first preset value set to an estimated value of the first bid item;

determining not to bid on the first bid item when it has been determined that the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is greater than or equal to the first preset value;

determining, when it has been determined that the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is not greater than or equal to the first preset value, whether or not the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is less than one-half of a difference of (i) a sum of a total purchasing fund and the first preset value and (ii) a second preset value, the second

preset value set to an estimated value of a second bid item that is able to be bid for in a second auction;

determining to bid on the first bid item when it has been determined that the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is less than one-half of the difference of (i) the sum of the total purchasing fund and the first preset value and (ii) the second preset value;

determining, when it has been determined that the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is not less than one-half of the difference of (i) the sum of the total purchasing fund and the first preset value and (ii) the second preset value, whether or not a difference of the present price of the first bid item in the first auction and the first preset value is less than a difference of a present price of the second bid item in the second auction and the second preset value; and

determining to bid on the first bid item when it has been determined that the difference of the present price of the first bid item in the first auction and the first preset value is less than the difference of the present price of the second bid item in the second auction and the second preset value.

42. (New) The method of claim 41,

wherein the first bid item is a different type of item than the second bid item.

43. (New) The method of claim 41,

wherein the first auction is separate from the second auction.

44. (New) The method of claim 41,

wherein the first bid item is offered for bid by a first seller;

wherein the second bid item is offered for bid by a second seller; and

wherein the first seller is different from the second seller.

45. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

determining, when it has been determined that the difference of the present price of the first bid item in the first auction and the first preset value is not less than the difference of the present price of the second bid item in the second auction and the second preset value,

whether or not a close of bidding for the first bid item in the first auction is earlier than a close of bidding for the second bid item in the second auction; and

determining, when it has been determined that the close of bidding for the first bid item in the first auction is earlier than the close of bidding for the second bid item in the second auction, whether or not to bid on the first bid item based on a result that is calculated in accordance with a parameterized decision equation.

46. (New) The method of claim 45,

wherein at least one parameter in the parameterized decision equation is set in accordance with a bidding strategy; and

wherein the bidding strategy takes into consideration a possible rise of the price of each of the first bid item and the second bid item due to participation of a third party to the bidding on the first bid item and the second bid item in the future.

47. (New) The method of claim 45,

wherein the parameterized decision equation is specified by a product of a parameter value and the present price of the second bid item in the second auction minus a product of the parameter value and the second preset value plus the first preset value;

wherein the parameter value is able to be set to a selected constant value; and

wherein the step of determining, when it has been determined that the close of bidding for the first bid item in the first auction is earlier than the close of bidding for the second bid item in the second auction, whether or not to bid on the first bid item based on the result that is calculated in accordance with the parameterized decision equation, comprises:

determining, when it has been determined that the close of bidding for the first bid item in the first auction is earlier than the close of bidding for the second bid item in the second auction, whether or not the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is greater than the product of the parameter value and the present price of the second bid item in the second auction minus the product of the parameter value and the second preset value plus the first preset value;

determining not to bid on the first bid item when it has been determined that the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is greater than the product of the

parameter value and the present price of the second bid item in the second auction minus the product of the parameter value and the second preset value plus the first preset value; and

determining to bid on the first bid item when it has been determined that the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is not greater than the product of the parameter value and the present price of the second bid item in the second auction minus the product of the parameter value and the second preset value plus the first preset value.

48. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

determining, when it has been determined that the difference of the present price of the first bid item in the first auction and the first preset value is not less than the difference of the present price of the second bid item in the second auction and the second preset value, whether or not a close of bidding for the first bid item in the first auction is earlier than a close of bidding for the second bid item in the second auction;

determining, when it has been determined that the close of bidding for the first bid item in the first auction is not earlier than the close of bidding for the second bid item in the second auction, whether or not the price of the first bid item in the first auction plus the price of the second bid item in the second auction is less than the total purchasing fund; and

determining, when it has been determined that the price of the first bid item in the first auction plus the price of the second bid item in the second auction is less than the total purchasing fund, whether or not to bid on the first bid item based on a result that is calculated in accordance with a parameterized decision equation.

49. (New) A method for determining whether or not to bid on a first bid item in a first auction, the method implemented in a computer, the method comprising:

determining whether or not a present price of the first bid item in the first auction is less than a first preset value, the first preset value set to an estimated value of the first bid item;

determining to bid on the first bid item when it has been determined that the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is less than the first preset value;

determining, when it has been determined that the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is not less than the first preset value, whether or not the present price of the

first bid item in the first auction is greater than a difference between a combinatorial value and a second preset value, the second preset value set to an estimated value of a second bid item that is able to be bid for in a second auction, the combinatorial value set to an estimated value realizable when both the first bid item and the second bid item are obtained;

determining not to bid on the first bid item when it has been determined that the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is greater than the difference between the combinatorial value and the second preset value;

determining, when it has been determined that the present price of the first bid item in the first auction is not greater than the difference between the combinatorial value and the second preset value, whether or not a sum of the present price of the first bid item in the first auction and the present price of the second bid item in the second auction is greater than the combinatorial value; and

determining not to bid on the first bid item when it has been determined that the sum of the present price of the first bid item in the first auction and the present price of the second bid item in the second auction is greater than the combinatorial value.

50. (New) The method of claim 49,

wherein the first bid item is a different type of item than the second bid item.

51. (New) The method of claim 49,

wherein the first auction is separate from the second auction.

52. (New) The method of claim 49,

wherein the first bid item is offered for bid by a first seller;

wherein the second bid item is offered for bid by a second seller; and

wherein the first seller is different from the second seller.

53. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising:

determining, when it has been determined that the sum of the present price of the first bid item in the first auction and the present price of the second bid item in the second auction

is not greater than the combinatorial value, whether or not to bid on the first bid item based on a result that is calculated in accordance with a parameterized decision equation.